

Representative Calf Boss Ribs, Chairman, and members of the committee please accept this testimony on behalf of Browning Public Schools.

We, first, would like to thank Rep Calf Boss Ribs for bringing this issue forward on behalf of educators.

The attachment represents this current years' grant revenue for BPS. Since 2003 when this law was implemented whereby retirement costs are charged against the federal funds instead of against the retirement fund as all other retirement costs are charged. This list has changed some in the names of the grants however the total revenue has not changed only minimally. At BPS we don't employ a grant writer. Our grants are all written by staff members that have other duties. Often after regular work hours teams of people will put their heads together and make applications for grants such as the Carol White grant we received this year to improve the physical activity of children. Our ESEA grants are prepared by the district superintendent all after regular work hours. The reason we do this is so that the grants dollars are very closely tied to student achievement and only the people working with the students can really achieve this. My point is that these dollars are hard earned and well thought out. We continue to seek federal dollars as a way to supplement our state and local funds in order to provide services to children.

The passage of HB305 would free up \$413,000 that are currently paying for retirement costs. BPS would use these dollars to provide direct services to children and employ the staff needed to provide these services.

When this law was amended in 2003 it converted just over \$400,000 to retirement costs. Interestingly enough the dollar amount has not changed much today. 5 years later our total grant revenue has raised only slightly and salaries have risen higher. In order to meet the increased salary costs we have used other dollars to cover those increases and this year we did not fill vacancies in order to keep up with rising costs.

You have the fiscal note showing a cost to the state of \$3 million and \$7.85 million at the county level. Even upon the passage of this bill I would submit to you that not all of the schools would move these retirement costs to the retirement fund.

This \$413 thousand would require 100 mills if levied against the local taxpayers in Browning. This bill helps share the burden with statewide and county wide tax payers.

The passage of HB305 would give individuals districts the choice on how they would pay their retirement costs. As budget becomes increasingly tight over the next two years this option may become very important to several districts. BPS would like to have the ability to make the decision necessary to continue to provide educational services to the children.

Please give HB305 a do pass.

Browning Public Schools Federal Programs Report for HB 305

	Grant	Salaries	HI & WC	Retirement	Remainder
Carl Perkins	\$ 63,337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,337
Carol White	\$ 347,028	\$ 236,026	\$ 29,316	\$ 36,820	\$ 177,138
Character Education	\$ 62,000	\$ 25,917	\$ 4,951	\$ 4,043	\$ 45,077
Gear Up	\$ 157,050	\$ 69,974	\$ 19,620	\$ 10,916	\$ 117,612
IDEA Part B	\$ 485,443	\$ 336,320	\$ 46,126	\$ 52,466	\$ 247,715
IDEA Preschool	\$ 16,894	\$ 12,894	\$ 1,989	\$ 2,011	\$ 8,000
Title I	\$ 1,455,339	\$ 915,096	\$ 178,351	\$ 142,755	\$ 861,349
Title I Improvement	\$ 385,264	\$ 287,975	\$ 49,728	\$ 44,924	\$ 191,941
Title II TPRR	\$ 371,970	\$ 273,127	\$ 59,046	\$ 42,608	\$ 200,497
Title II Technology	\$ 21,882	\$ 18,500	\$ 111	\$ 2,886	\$ 6,379
Title III Eng Lang Acq	\$ 61,641	\$ 44,371	\$ 10,456	\$ 6,922	\$ 34,648
Title IV DF&SS	\$ 28,637	\$ 14,846	\$ 3,277	\$ 2,316	\$ 19,384
Title VII Indian Ed	\$ 510,859	\$ 330,673	\$ 58,417	\$ 51,585	\$ 290,188
Tobacco Prevention	\$ 12,108	\$ 9,653	\$ 2,455	\$ 1,506	\$ 6,416
21st Century Learning	\$ 120,000	\$ 74,680	\$ 5,848	\$ 11,650	\$ 62,818

TOTALS	\$ 4,099,452	\$ 2,650,052	\$ 469,691	\$ 413,408	\$ 2,332,499
Percent of Total Grant		64.64%		10.08%	